

Immigrant families in limbo after judge puts U.S. program for spouses on hold

By VALERIE GONZALEZ and
GISELA SALOMON
Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — After President Joe Biden this summer announced a new U.S. citizenship pathway for immigrant spouses, Oscar Silva rushed to apply and was elated Monday when an email arrived confirming his appointment for a required biometric exam. But hours later, Silva received a jolt: a federal judge in Texas was temporarily suspending the program that could benefit an estimated 500,000 immigrants in the U.S., freezing in place one of the biggest presidential actions to ease a path to citizenship in years.

"I don't know what is going to happen," Silva said Tuesday.




Roberto Garcia and his wife Maria Garcia pause for a picture after dropping their two children off for their first day of school in East Los Angeles on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024.

Continued on Page 2

Associated Press

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Immigrant families in limbo after judge puts U.S. program for spouses on hold

Continued from Front

The 23-year-old college student arrived in the U.S. as a baby and lives in Texas with his wife, Natalie, an American citizen who provides for their family as a high school teacher.

Although the Biden administration's "Keeping Families Together" program only began accepting applications last week, families and immigration attorneys say confusion, uncertainty and frustration is already mounting following the order by U.S. District Judge J. Campbell Barker. Couples who already applied say they are in limbo and those who haven't yet must weigh whether to wait for Republicans' court challenge over the program to play out.

Applicants must pay a \$580 processing fee. Following Barker's order, the Florida Immigrant Coalition said it was asking people "to weigh their options and to make the best decision for their families at this time."

The court order followed a challenge by 16 states, led by Republican attorneys general, who filed a federal lawsuit days after the program began taking applications on Aug. 19. Barker's order, known as an administrative stay, will be in place for 14 days but could be extended. "That ruling is wrong. These families should not be needlessly separated," Biden said in a statement. The states claimed the move would cause irreparable harm and accused the administration of bypassing Congress for "blatant political purposes." Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, whose office is helping lead the lawsuit, applauded the or-



Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton speaks during the Conservative Political Action Conference, CPAC 2024, at the National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md., Friday, Feb. 23, 2024.

Associated Press

der. "This is just the first step. We are going to keep fighting for Texas, our country, and the rule of law," he said in a statement.

On Tuesday, the Department of Homeland Security said the government would continue to take applications and defend the program in court. Any applicants whose parole was granted prior to the order will be unaffected, according to the department. DHS did not respond to questions about how many applications were received or approved or how long it takes to determine the outcome of a case under the program.

Fears of separation returned for Silva and his wife, Natalie. Under the traditional process to apply for a green card, spouses living

in the U.S. illegally can be required to return to their home country — often for years — and they always face the risk they may not be allowed back in.

"We thought this was finally our opportunity to be able to go through this process together and not fear the possibility of spending ten years away from each other," Silva said. Now "I feel pretty heartbroken, very sad... because without it we face so much uncertainty."

Immigration attorney Laura Flores-Perilla said it was "really unclear" what will happen with Silva's appointment scheduled for September.

"I cannot underestimate the impact that this temporary pause is having," said Flores-Perilla, an attorney at the

Action Justice Center.

Gregory Chen, the director of government relations for the American Immigration Lawyers Association, said he had heard from lawyers affiliated with the association of at least hundreds of people who had applied since the program was launched, including some who applied and were approved the next day.

Lawyers are rushing to understand what the order means for their clients, too. According to Chen, the organization's listserv for lawyers interested in the Keeping Families Together program "blew up" after the judge's decision late Monday with questions about what the decision means. Advocates are concerned the changes, even temporary ones, created by such

litigation "creates chaos and uncertainty" for those looking to apply. Chen said he's seen the effect litigation has had on other immigration-related programs. His organization has held three webinars designed to educate lawyers about the program. One of those seminars had about 1,000 lawyers in attendance, an extremely high number for one of the group's educational offerings, Chen said. Roberto García, 37, and his wife Maria in Los Angeles had just paid an attorney \$3,000 to help them fill out the lengthy application for the program but the application wasn't submitted yet because of Monday's order. Now, they're wondering if they should gamble their chances and pay the processing fee for a program on hold.

"I didn't think this was going to happen. It's very hard," said Roberto García, referring to the order that halted the parole program. "We are not a priority. It is bad that they play with people's feelings."

Roberto is the sole provider for the family of five and earns a living through this construction business in California. He also sends money back home to family in Mexico.

If approved, applicants have three years to seek permanent residency. During that period, they can get a work authorization. But Maria García said she is losing hope and considering moving to Mexico, where her husband has his parents and brothers.

"We will never be able to buy a house here," she said. "Here if you do things wrong, they reward you. If you do things right, they punish you." □

Feds file new indictment in Trump Jan. 6 case, keeping charges intact but narrowing allegations



Special counsel Jack Smith speaks about an indictment of former President Donald Trump, Aug. 1, 2023, at a Department of Justice office in Washington.

Associated Press

By **ERIC TUCKER and ALAN-NA DURKIN RICHER**
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Special counsel Jack Smith filed a new indictment Tuesday against Donald Trump over his efforts to undo the 2020 presidential election that keeps the same criminal charges but narrows the allegations against him following a Supreme Court opinion that conferred broad immunity on former presidents. The new indictment removes a section of the indictment that had accused Trump of trying to use the law enforcement powers of the Justice Department to overturn his election loss, an area of conduct for which the Supreme Court, in a 6-3 opinion last month, said that Trump was absolutely immune from prosecution. The stripped-down criminal case represents a first effort by prosecutors to comply with a Supreme Court opinion likely to result in a significant revision of the allegations against Trump over his efforts to block the peaceful transfer of power. It was filed three days ahead of a deadline for prosecutors and defense lawyers to tell the judge in the case how they wanted to proceed in light of that opinion, which said former presidents are presumptively immune from prosecution for official White House acts. The two sides will be back in court for a status hearing next week, the first such ap-

pearance in months given that the case had been effectively frozen since last December as Trump's immunity appeal worked its way through the justice system. The special counsel's office said the updated indictment, filed in federal court in Washington, was issued by a grand jury that had not previously heard evidence in the case. It said in a statement that the indictment "reflects the Government's efforts to respect and implement the Supreme Court's holdings and remand instructions." The central revision in the updated criminal case concerns Trump's dealings with the Justice Department. The original indictment included allegations that Trump tried to enlist the department in his failed effort to undo his election loss, including by conducting sham investigations and telling states incorrectly that significant fraud had been detected. It detailed how Jeffrey Clark, a top official in the Trump Justice Department, wanted to send a letter to elected officials in certain states falsely claiming that the department had "identified significant concerns that may have impacted the outcome of the election" and had asked top department officials to sign it, but they refused. Clark's support for Trump's election fraud claims led Trump to openly contemplate naming him as acting attorney general in place of Jeffrey Rosen, who led

the department in the final weeks of the Trump administration. Trump ultimately relented in that idea "when he was told it would result in mass resignations at the Justice Department," according to the original indictment. Rosen remained on as acting attorney general through the end of Trump's tenure. The new case no longer references Clark as a co-conspirator. Trump's co-conspirators were not named in either indictment, but they have been identified through public records and other means. In its opinion, the Supreme Court held that a president's interactions with the Justice Department consti-

tute official acts for which he is entitled to immunity, effectively stripping those allegations from the case. "As we have explained, the President's power to remove 'executive officers of the United States whom he has appointed' may not be regulated by Congress or reviewed by the courts," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court. The justices returned other core allegations in the case to U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, the trial judge presiding over the case, to determine what constitutes an official act protected from prosecution and what does not. The new indictment still includes one of the more stunning allegations brought by

Smith that Trump participated in a scheme orchestrated by allies to enlist slates of fraudulent electors in battleground states won by Democrat Joe Biden who would falsely attest that Trump had won in those states. It also retains allegations that Trump sought to pressure Vice President Mike Pence to reject legitimate electoral votes, and that Trump and his allies exploited the chaos at the Capitol on Jan. 6 in an attempt to further delay the certification of Biden's victory. Roberts wrote in his majority opinion that the interactions between Trump and Pence amounted to official conduct for which "Trump is at least presumptively immune from prosecution." □



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Providers halt services after court allows Florida to enforce ban on transgender care for minors

By KATE PAYNE

Associated Press/Report for America

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) —

Advocates say transgender patients are facing barriers to “potentially life-saving health care” after a federal appeals court ruled that a Florida law banning gender-affirming care can be enforced while a legal challenge plays out.

The decision handed down by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta on Monday cleared the way for Florida to prohibit transgender minors from being prescribed puberty blockers and hormonal treatments, even with their parents’ permission. The law also requires that transgender adults only receive treatment from a doctor and not from a registered nurse or other qualified provider.

Jon Harris Maurer, the public policy director for LGBTQ+ rights group Equality Florida, characterized the law as government intrusion into “vital health care.” “We have parents, understandably very concerned about their children’s well-being, who want to make sure that they have the right to make the best decisions for their kids,” Maurer said. “This ruling puts back



Lucas prepares his weekly testosterone shot at his home in Casselberry, Fla., May 29, 2023. The Associated Press is not using Lucas’ last names because he fears reprisal.

Associated Press

in place a law that interferes with that. And it puts their kids and their families at risk.”

Suicide is a leading cause of death among young people, and transgender and nonbinary youth are at a significantly increased risk.

At least 26 states have adopted laws restricting or banning gender-affirming medical care for transgender minors, but Florida was the first state to restrict

health care for transgender adults, according to the LGBTQ+ advocacy group the Human Rights Campaign.

Enforcement of the Florida law had been on hold since June, after U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle struck down the ban as unconstitutional.

Gov. Ron DeSantis, who signed the law in May of 2023, has made anti-LGBTQ+ legislation a large part of his agenda and his

national political profile. Asked for comment on the decision, a spokesperson pointed to statements DeSantis made in June, predicting that Hinkle’s ruling would be overturned.

“We are going to stand up for duly enacted statutes. We’re going to stand up for protecting the innocence of these kids,” DeSantis said. “We’ll win that appeal.”

The American Academy of Pediatrics has repeatedly

affirmed gender-affirming care for children, noting that transgender adolescents and adults have high rates of depression, self-harm and suicide, and stating that providers have an “essential role” in supporting patients and their families in evidence-based decision making.

“The AAP opposes any laws or regulations that discriminate against transgender and gender-diverse individuals, or that interfere in the doctor-patient relationship,” the organization said in a statement in August of 2023 reaffirming its gender-affirming care policy.

For nurse practitioner Joseph Knoll, the 2-1 ruling handed down on Monday was a disappointment but not a surprise.

While the law has been on hold for the past two months, Knoll and other providers at Spektrum Health in Orlando have been racing the clock to work through a backlog of patients who had been denied care under the provision.

Spektrum specializes in LGBTQ+ primary care and the majority of its 5,000 patients come to the clinic for gender-affirming care and medical transition services, according to Knoll, who is also Spektrum’s CEO. □

EPA takes charge of Detroit-area cleanup of vaping supplies warehouse destroyed by explosions

By ED WHITE

Associated Press

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, Mich.

(AP) — The federal govern-



Sean Kane from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stands at the former site of a vaping supplies warehouse in Clinton Township, Mich., on Aug. 27, 2024.

Associated Press

ment is leading a cleanup of the hazardous remains of a Detroit-area storage site for vaping supplies, five months after explosions destroyed the building, sent debris flying for miles and killed a man.

Goo Smoke Shop in Macomb County’s Clinton Township was stuffed with vape pens, butane canisters, nitrous oxide cylinders and lithium batteries. While loads of debris have been recovered in the surrounding area, there is still more work to be done.

“We don’t know what we’re going to find in there,” Sean Kane of the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency told reporters Tuesday, though more butane and nitrous oxide are likely.

“We are actually going to go in and start segregating all the hazardous materials, and we will be doing a full removal of everything that you see in the background,” Kane said.

Behind a fence, the 28,000-square-foot property is in ruins. The roof collapsed during the March fire and explosions. Mounds of charred, twisted metal framed by a few steel girders still remain.

“We’re going to be ramp-

ing up after Labor Day with more personnel on site,” said Kane, who is coordinating the effort.

Authorities said the disaster was caused by the poor storage of volatile materials. The owner has been charged with involuntary manslaughter in the death of a 19-year-old man who was struck by a nitrous oxide canister a quarter-mile away. Kane said the EPA took on a larger role when cleanup talks between the government and responsible parties reached a standstill.

The estimated cost is more than \$2 million. □

Omakase Japanese Sushi Bar Celebrates 10th Anniversary at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa

EAGLE BEACH, ARUBA – Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is proud to announce the 10th anniversary of its esteemed Omakase Japanese Sushi Bar. Located within the serene and luxurious environment of the boutique resort on Eagle Beach, Omakase has become a hallmark of culinary excellence, offering guests an extraordinary journey through the art of Japanese cuisine.

To celebrate this milestone, the resort unveils a series of special events and promotions that showcase a decade of dedication to exceptional dining.

Special Japanese Pairing Menu – August 30th

On August 30th, Omakase Japanese Sushi Bar will host an exclusive anniversary celebration, featuring a specially curated Japanese pairing menu. The menu, crafted by Sushi Chef Mylene Lapinid, will showcase a selection of the restaurant's finest sushi and Japanese creations, each paired with a Sake, Wine or Cocktail to enhance the delicate flavors and textures. This one-night-only event offers a gastronomic experience perfect for both seasoned sushi enthusiasts and those new to Japanese cuisine. With limited seating available for the exclusive event, foodies are encouraged to reserve their spots early.

For reservations or more information, please contact:

Restaurant Manager – Michael Koolman
at Michael@manchebo.com or by calling +297 522 3444

Employee Sushi Making Workshop & Luncheon

In honor of the anniversary, Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa recently organized a special Sushi Making Workshop for its employees. During this hands-on event, team members learned the intricate art of sushi making under the guidance of chef Mylene. Following the workshop, employees enjoyed a sushi luncheon, gaining a deeper appreciation for the culinary expertise that defines Omakase.

About Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa:

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, located on the pristine Eagle Beach in Aruba, is a luxurious and intimate getaway offering guests a unique blend of serenity, comfort, and exceptional service. The resort is dedicated to providing unforgettable experiences, from world-class dining to rejuvenating spa treatments and wellness classes, all set against the backdrop of one of the Caribbean's most beautiful beaches.



10th Anniversary Dinner by Chef Mylene Lapinid

**August 30, 2024
7 PM**

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Saké Murai Family Daiginjo -
Aomori Prefecture, Japan

Matsuri Vegan Maki

Cucumber filled with tuna salad made of chick peas
Saké Murai Family Sugidama -
Aomori Prefecture, Japan

Otoro Sashimi

Otoro Tuna 2 Pcs
Domaine de l'Île Porquerolles Rosé by Chanel -
Côtes de Provence, France

Yakimeshi Wagyu

Fried Rice, Egg, Carrot, Onion & 2.5 oz Grilled Wagyu
Sequoia Grove Cabernet Sauvignon
- Napa Valley, USA

Macha Mochiya

Macha Mochi, Pineapple, Melon & Fresh Cherry
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A top White House official says U.S. and China are working to avoid conflict at talks in Beijing

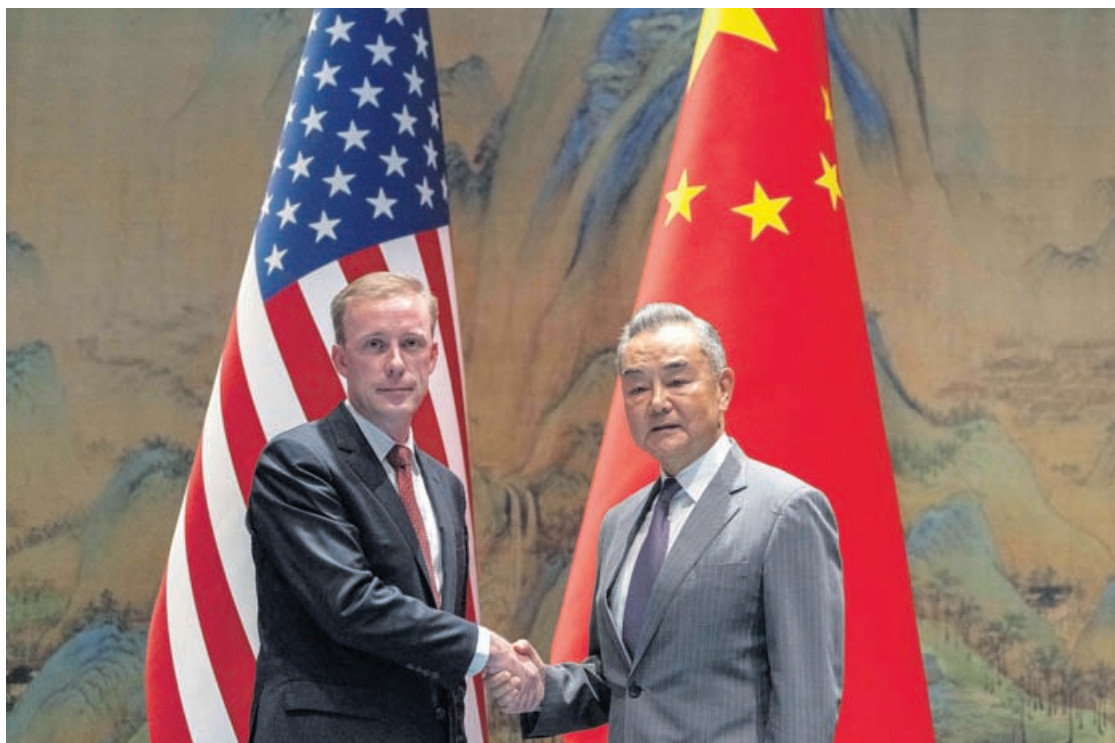
By KEN MORITSUGU
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The United States and China are working to ensure the competition between them does not veer into conflict, a top White House official said Tuesday as the two sides started talks on a relationship that has been severely tested during President Joe Biden's term in office.

Jake Sullivan, the U.S. national security adviser, is meeting over two days with Wang Yi, a senior foreign policy official for Chinese leader Xi Jinping, in a scenic lake area on the northern outskirts of Beijing.

"President Biden has been very clear in his conversations with President Xi that he is committed to managing this important relationship responsibly," Sullivan told Wang before the talks got underway.

The goal of his visit, which



Wang Yi, right, the director of the Communist Party's Central Foreign Affairs Commission Office shakes hands with White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan, left, at Yanqi lake in Beijing, Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024.
Associated Press

lasts through Thursday, is limited to try to maintain communication in a rela-

tionship that broke down for the better part of a year in 2022-23 and was only

nursed back over several months. No major announcements

are expected, though Sullivan's meetings could lay the groundwork for a possible final summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping before Biden steps down in January.

Wang, the director of the Communist Party's Central Foreign Affairs Commission Office, noted that the China-U.S. relationship has gone through twists and turns in the past few years.

"The key," he said, "is to keep to the overall direction of mutual respect, peaceful co-existence, and win-win cooperation." According to Da Wei, a U.S. and international relations expert at Tsinghua University in Beijing, it's important for the two countries to avoid any crisis in the remaining months of the Biden administration, as it could set the tone for U.S.-China ties under the next one. □

Iran's supreme leader opens door to negotiations with United States over Tehran's nuclear program

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

Iran's supreme leader opened the door Tuesday to renewed negotiations with the United States over his country's rapidly advancing nuclear program, telling its civilian government there was "no harm" in engaging with its "enemy."

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks set clear red lines for any talks taking place under the government of reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian and renewed his warnings that Washington wasn't to be trusted.

But his comments mirror those around the time of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which saw Tehran's nuclear program greatly curtailed in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Yet it remains unclear just how much room Pezeshkian will have to maneuver, particularly as tensions remain high in the wider Middle East over the Israel-Hamas war and as the U.S. prepares for a presidential election in



In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting with the President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration, in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024.

Associated Press

November.

"This does not mean that we cannot interact with the same enemy in certain situations," Khamenei said, according to a transcript on his official website. "There is no harm in that, but do not place your hopes in them." Khamenei, who has the fi-

nal say on all state matters, also warned Pezeshkian's Cabinet, "Do not trust the enemy."

Khamenei, 85, has occasionally urged talks or dismissed them with Washington after then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States

from the deal in 2018.

There have been indirect talks between Iran and the U.S. in recent years mediated by Oman and Qatar, two of the United States' Middle East interlocutors when it comes to Iran. Khamenei's remarks came a day after Qatar's prime

minister visited the country. Asked for comment, the U.S. State Department told The Associated Press: "We will judge Iran's leadership by their actions, not their words."

"We have long said that we ultimately view diplomacy as the best way to achieve an effective, sustainable solution with regard to Iran's nuclear program," it said. "However, we are far away from anything like that right now given Iran's escalations across the board, including its nuclear escalations and its failure to cooperate" with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations nuclear watchdog.

"If Iran wants to demonstrate seriousness or a new approach, they should stop nuclear escalations and start meaningfully cooperating with the IAEA," it said.

Since the deal's collapse, Iran has abandoned all limits that the deal put on its program, and enriches uranium to up to 60% purity near weapons-grade levels of 90%. □

Fugitive ex-official implicates Mexican ex-president, others in tale spun of student disappearances

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A former head of investigations for Mexico's Attorney General's Office told officials investigating the 2014 disappearance of 43 students that the so-called "historic truth" presented to the public weeks later was cooked up by the highest ranking authorities in the government during meetings presided over by then-President Enrique Peña Nieto, a Mexican news outlet reported Monday.

Tomás Zerón, a fugitive now in Israel beyond the reach of Mexican law enforcement, told investigators that the president and members of his security Cabinet were present, the independent journalism collective Fabrica de Periodismo reported.

It quoted from Zerón's an-

swers to a lengthy questionnaire sent to him in 2022 by Mexico's top human rights official at the time, Alejandro Encinas, which was released under a freedom of information request.

The "historic truth" version contended the students were turned over by local police to a drug gang in the city of Iguala. The gang purportedly killed the students, incinerated their

bodies at a dump in nearby Cocula and tossed the remains into a river.

Subsequent investigations by independent experts and the Attorney General's Office, and corroborated by the Truth Commission established for the case, have since dismissed the idea the bodies were burned at the dump.

A local drug gang was indeed involved, they determined, but the Truth Commission also believes corrupt members of Mexico's military as well as police at all levels were, too.

Encinas, the human rights official, previously referred to high-level meetings of officials to discuss the "historic truth" version, but without identifying all of those present.

According to Zerón, the

meetings were attended by the president as well as his security Cabinet and then-Attorney General Jesús Murillo Karam. Murillo Karam has been credited with calling the explanation of the students' disappearance the "historic truth" and has been under house arrest awaiting trial. Peña Nieto now lives in Spain.

Zerón, who is accused of torture and forced disappearance, did not provide any detail on Peña Nieto's involvement other than to say he was at the meetings. Encinas, who resigned from his post last year, has said he offered Zerón a deal for his cooperation in the investigation. Asked about the case Monday, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Zerón should turn himself in. □



Relatives of the 43 Ayotzinapa students who went missing almost 10 years ago march to demand justice for their loved ones in Mexico City, Monday, Aug. 26, 2024.

Associated Press



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About LIV Casino at Barcelo Aruba

LIV Casino, located within the luxurious Barcelo Aruba, offers a premier gaming experience in the heart of Palm Beach. Our casino features a wide variety of slot machines, table games, and a Florin Machines area, ensuring an unforgettable experience for every guest. Whether you're a seasoned player or a first-time visitor,



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Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty

fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and krokets at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and

sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.



4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at La Cabana Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)



**The honorees were:
Distinguished Visitors**

Mr. Brendan & Mrs. Aziza Gilligan from New Hampshire, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of La Cabana Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were

- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's very safe.
- "Kids friendly island"
- "Easy island to explore"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". ☐

Ever heard of the cah'i orgel? A key instrument in Aruban folklore music

(Oranjestad)—The cah'i orgel music box is an important and unique instrument that is used on the ABC islands in the Dutch Caribbean. This instrument is a staple in our folklore

music, and its significance in the traditions of Aruba has and continues to bring together the old and young.

The origin of the cah'i orgel is said to have come from Europe around 150 years ago. A cross breed between the barrel piano and the organ, the most popular stories said that the instrument came from either England or Germany, but made its way to Italy down to Venezuela, where in 1881, Mr. Horatio Sprock (1866-1949) from Curacao was first introduced to it. After that, Sprock made his own cah'i orgel "Josefina", and successfully debuted it on the streets of Barquisimeto. Back in Curacao, he started his own cah'i orgel business along with his brother Luis. In Aruba, it is said that the cah'i orgel was introduced by Rufo Wever, who later in his career became one of the composers for the Aruban national anthem.

Rufo Wever was a young musician in 1937 when he established his own cah'i orgel business on the island. Before that he experimented with his uncle's cah'i orgel, and he over the years he learned to build and repair the instrument. In fact, he was incredibly skilled in this, and he was one of the few to have recognized from the start that the cah'i orgel is



an instrument that needs preserving.

As mentioned, the cah'i orgel is a music box. made from mahogany wood, it contains a cylinder with a maximum of eight music pieces. By rotating the lever on the front side of the box, the cah'i orgel produces music similar to that of a piano, and is accompanied often by someone else playing the "wiri", a percussion instrument made out of steel and reminiscent to the Spanish guiro. Back then, you would often also find someone playing the triangle alongside the cah'i orgel and wiri. In Aruba, the cah'i orgel and wiri is used for traditional music genres, such as the Aruban waltz, tumba, mazurka and more.

Fun fact: another name for the cah'i orgel is the "tingilingi box." ☐

Source: "E Cilinder Magico entre Aruba y Curaçao" by Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé, Herta Parabirsing-Balentina and Nidia Rosaria-Wallé.



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Granting the Shoco a future in Aruba: Renewed conservation efforts for Aruba's endangered endemic burrowing owl

By: Aruba Birdlife Conservation, Greg Peterson

This year marks the reactivation of Shoco conservation efforts, which had been disrupted by the Covid-19 lockdowns. Over the past few years, Shocos have faced increasing challenges in finding safe and suitable breeding locations across many areas of our island.

Tera Cora, the coastal area behind the Tierra del Sol golf course, was once a high biodiversity area and one of the most important breeding grounds for the Aruba Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia arubensis*), locally known as the "Shoco." In 2019, to im-



prove the Shocos' chances of survival, the first 20 artificial burrows were installed at the Tierra del Sol Golf Course. The primary reason for providing Shocos

with alternative breeding opportunities was the systematic destruction of their natural burrows at Tera Cora, due to unregulated UTV and ATV off-roading

activities. Over 90% of their natural burrows at Tera Cora were destroyed within just a few years following the introduction of off-roading adventure tourism, and many Shocos are still killed to date by the reckless driving of off-road vehicles. It is well known, both locally and internationally, that Aruba's unsustainable, including the so-called 'adventure', tourism has come at a very high cost to the island's natural environment and biodiversity.

Earlier this year, discussions were initiated with the new owners of the golf course regarding the existing Shoco conservation project.

The new owners, the Ibero-star group, have agreed to continue supporting the project and is committed to taking it a step further. Maintenance will be performed on the existing artificial burrows as the golf course undergoes renovations and upgrades, and 12 new artificial burrows will be added at safe locations around the golf course increasing the total number to 32.

This specific Shoco conservation project, led by the Aruba Birdlife Conservation, will be integrated into the new golf course design and branding, bringing in an educational □

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)	Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)	Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
---	---	--

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors
Mr. Joe & Mrs. Deborah Paulo from Somers Connecticut, United States.
Mr. Ayden Paulo from Somers Connecticut, United States,

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's weather & beaches are perfect for diving.
- Aruba's restaurants.



- "Brought our families together from all over to vacation together"
- "We feel safe here"

On behalf of the Aruba

Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Traces of Paleolithic at Malmok

Episode CCLXVIII - 268

The island's unique native gem, Etnia Nativa, blends education and entertainment, offering interactive experiences to a select few. This is your private opportunity to tour a beautiful property made with reused materials collected by its owner, a top columnist and Aruba's cultural expert. Book your visit and dive deep into the navel of the island.

Through this weekly column, it shares the most interesting and revealing stories about this tiny tourist destination and its thousands of years of pre-history. Spreading how human experience shapes our lives and culture, discover what will enlighten and spice up your stayover. Aid your curiosity; feel like an Aruban native.

This new episode elaborates on the Paleolithic cemetery at Malmok. Historical evidence reveals that Paleolithic nomadic tribes reached our island thousands of years before the arrival of agro-ceramic groups from the Amazon and Orinoco regions.

In the process of discovering the island's landscapes and topography, you will reach the Malmok area, which offers a perfect and relaxing coast line and beaches. During your drive around, you will probably notice and differentiate three basic geological formations: one is a hilly part, the second an undulating part, and a third part consisting of limestone, which embraces these two zones and also forms the coast line.

The picture shows you how calm and peacefully you can swim in the Malmok area. Now for those who



want to know more about this beautiful and archaic site. There is a Malmok Paleolithic cemetery. This Stone Age site is situated at a distance of 200 meters south and 300 meters north of the sea, parallel to the former Salina, or salt lake. The site shares its sandy subsoil with the salt lake. This limestone is part of the Lower Terrace formation, formed during a period of rising sea level. Most commonly forms in clear, warm, shallow marine waters. It is usually an organic sedimentary rock that forms from the accumulation of shell, coral, algae, etc.

Most of the area in the Malmok site is flat terrain near the Salina. However, some dunes exist in the western part of the site. Rock markings and turtle shell-covered graves were found in the dunes slightly above the plain. This means that the dunes were already present in the period when the burial activities took place in Malmok. The graves in their relation to the present surface suggest that the surface was essentially the same in prehistory as it is today.

The Neolithic agro-ceramic tribes also occupied this abundant and resourceful area, which marine supply must have sustained their peaceful existence. Relatives buried their dead's in the ground near their settlement, some

with special gifts as social status distinctions in their grave. However, others were found with seeds to be planted in the afterlife, while a few had any traceable gifts at all. During rituals, corpses were first buried in the ground; after several months or even years, the bones were excavated and cleaned with meticulous care. These skeletal remains subsequently obtain their permanent resting place in a fairly small urn or vessel. Natives gave great care and devotion to their dead. So you must imagine that people since thousands of years have been very grateful to have enjoyed the pleasure of this paradisiac island for its clear, calm, and generous nature.

If you liked our native stories and are interested in learning the true identity of Aruba, a visit to Etnia Nativa would be a fantastic choice. It has been a trend setter since 1994, as a co-founder of projects such as Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, among others. Every week, this newspaper continues to share its valuable knowledge. Don't miss the opportunity to feel the island's spirit through learning real stories that are not just remembered; they resonate, they're felt, and they stir souls. Book your visit: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com. □



Did you know about...

Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired

by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also

encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □



bebouwde kom



end bebouwde kom



end priority



end speed limit



intersection priority



priority



speed limit



stop sign



triangle stop sign

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Bamboo eaters
7 Like some cheeses
11 Swear (to)
12 Valentine word
13 Colorful flower
14 Was windy
15 Worked the soil
17 Harangue
20 Skilled
23 Imitating
24 Colorful flower
26 Gift tag word
27 Shade tree
28 Music genre
29 Colorful flower
31 Low digit
32 Blockhead
33 Altar vows
34 Lazy — (turn-ables)
37 Fling
39 Colorful flower
43 For two, in music
44 Lake of Alberta
45 Harry Truman's wife
46 Anxiety

DOWN

- 1 Jotting spot
2 —
3 Ultimate
4 Glazed pottery
5 Sri Lanka setting
6 Betel-geuse, e.g.
7 Reflective quality
8 Colorful flower
9 Early evictee
10 Grass coat
16 Molten stuff
17 Kid-friendly singer
18 Audibly
19 Colorful flower
21 Grand, for one
22 Some demos
24 Outdoes
25 Yale backer
30 Shelters
33 Put out
35 Rights org.
36 Day divider
37 Saloon bill
38 Exalted verse
40 Soccer's Hamm
41 CIA predecessor
42 Notice

B	A	S	I	S		S	A	L	A	D
A	W	A	R	E		I	R	A	Q	I
W	A	L	K	I	N	G	T	O	U	R
L	Y	E		Z	E	N		S	A	T
			P	E	T	A	L			
P	A	R	I	S		L	O	F	T	S
A	P	E	X			P	A	V	E	
Y	E	M	E	N		T	E	R	S	E
			L	A	P	A	Z			
A	D	O		D	I	N		L	A	D
R	U	N	N	I	N	G	J	O	K	E
I	N	C	U	R		L	O	G	I	N
D	E	E	T	S		E	B	O	N	Y

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
			15			16				
17	18	19				20			21	22
23				24	25					
26				27				28		
29			30					31		
32							33			
		34			35	36				
37	38				39			40	41	42
43					44					
45					46					

6-5

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-5

CRYPTOQUOTE

C Z K J W B K M P K Q W F C V R D
O K K . C O C D W L K G K A C L Y P .
C O D Y Q W D U K C G U O K
Z W Y Q W G . — W A C P B
R C L X C G D K G

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS BAD WEATHER, ONLY UNSUITABLE CLOTHING. — ALFRED WAINWRIGHT

Cruise ship Schedule: September 03 - 24 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	03	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 09.00	20.00 22.00	B C	1 1
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	10	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 08.00 13.00	21.00 22.00 23.00	B C I	1 1 1
TUE	17	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	24	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL MAGIC	08.00 09.00	21.00 22.00	B C	1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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What to know about the Oropouche virus, also known as sloth fever

By **MIKE STOBBE**
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — More than 20 people returning to the U.S. from Cuba have been infected with a virus transmitted by bugs in recent months, federal health officials said Tuesday. They all had Oropouche virus disease, also known as sloth fever.

None have died, and there is no evidence that it's spreading in the United States. But officials are warning U.S. doctors to be on the lookout for the infection in travelers coming from Cuba and South America. Here's a look at the illness and what sparked the alert:

What is Oropouche virus? Oropouche is a virus that is native to forested tropical areas. It was first identified in 1955 in a 24-year-old forest worker on the island of Trinidad, and was named for a nearby village and wetlands. □



This 2014 photo made available by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a feeding female *Anopheles funestus* mosquito.

Associated Press

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Dolly Parton is sending free books to children across 21 states and around the world

By **H. HOLLINGSWORTH and
BRUCE SCHREINER**
Associated Press

Dolly Parton's father grew up poor and never got the chance to learn to read. Inspired by her upbringing, over the past three decades, the 78-year-old country music legend has made it her mission to improve literacy through her Imagination Library book giveaway program. And in recent years, it has expanded statewide in places like Missouri and Kentucky, two of 21 states where all children under the age of 5 can enroll to have books mailed to their homes monthly.

To celebrate, she made stops Tuesday in both states to promote the program and tell the story of her father, Robert Lee Parton, who died in 2000.

"In the mountains, a lot of people never had a chance to go to school because they had to work on the farms," she said at the Folly Theater in Kansas City, Missouri.

"They had to do whatever it took to keep the rest of



Dolly Parton addresses attendees at an event celebrating the Missouri statewide expansion of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

the family going."

Parton, the fourth of 12 children from a poor Appalachian family, said her father was "one of the smartest people I've ever known," but he was embarrassed that he couldn't read.

And so she decided to help other kids, initially rolling out the program in a single county in her home state of

Tennessee in 1995. It spread quickly from there, and today over 3 million books are sent out each month 240 million to kids worldwide since it started.

Missouri covers the full cost of the program, which totaled \$11 million in the latest fiscal year.

Most of the other states chip in money through a

cost-sharing model.

"The kids started calling me the 'book lady,'" Parton said.

"And Daddy was more proud of that than he was that I was a star. But Daddy got to feeling like he had really done some great as well."

Parton, who earned the Grammy Lifetime Achieve-

ment Award a decade ago, said she eventually wants to see the program in every state. She said she is proud that her dad lived long enough to see the program get off the ground.

"That was kind of my way to honor my dad, because the Bible says to honor your father and mother," she said.

"And I don't think that just means, 'just obey.' I think it means to bring honor to their name and to them."

Parton is an author herself whose titles include the 1996 children's book "Coat of Many Colors," which is part of the book giveaway program.

As she prepared to sing her famous song by the same name, she explained that it is about a coat her mother made her from a patchwork of mismatched fabric, since the family was too poor to afford a large piece of a single fabric. Parton was proud of it because her mother likened it the multicolored coat that is told about in the Bible a fantastic gift from Jacob to his son Joseph. □

Comic Relief US launches new Roblox game to help children build community virtually and in real life

By **JAMES POLLARD**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The notion that online gaming could help players develop charitable habits seemed bold when the anti-poverty nonprofit Comic Relief US tested its own multiverse on the popular world-building app Roblox last year.

As philanthropy wrestles with how to authentically engage new generations of digitally savvy donors, Comic Relief US CEO Alison Moore said it was "audacious" to design an experience that still maintained the "twinkle" of the organization that's behind entertainment-driven fundraisers like Red Nose Day.

But the launch was successful enough that Comic Relief US is expanding the game this year. Kids Relief's

second annual "Game to Change the World" campaign features a magical new Roblox world, an exclusive virtual concert and a partner in children's television pioneer Nickelodeon.

The goal is to instill empathy and raise money through

a scavenger hunt across various realms, including SpongeBob SquarePants and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Users travel through portals to collect magical tools that will improve their surroundings. The net proceeds from in-game purchases will be donated.



This image provided by Comic Relief US shows the virtual realm of the nonprofit's new 'Game to Change the World.'

Associated Press

The community-building inherent in collaborative gaming is intended to subtly encourage off-screen acts of kindness. "It's a little bit like me helping you, you helping me all of us together. I love the idea of doing that in a game space," Moore told The Associated Press. "It's not meant to be a banner ad or a sign that says, 'Do Good.' It's meant to be emblematic in the gameplay itself."

Nickelodeon is also promoting an instructional guide for kids to start their own local projects in real life such as backpack drives.

Quests are delivered from wizards voiced by "Doctor Who" icon David Tennant, "Veep" star Tony Hale and "Never Have I Ever" actress Maitreyi Ramakrishnan. One wizard invites users to

"embark on an enchanted journey to awaken the heart of your community."

The campaign will culminate in a weekend music festival on Roblox beginning Sept. 13 that features rock band Imagine Dragons, whose lead singer Dan Reynolds has focused his philanthropy on LGBTQ+ causes. Virtual acts also include Conan Gray, Poppy, d4vd and Alexander Stewart all musical artists who got their big breaks on YouTube.

Moore said she was "blown away" by last year's numbers. The inaugural game has been played for over 32 billion minutes and one performance received the highest "concert thumbs up rating" ever on Roblox, according to Comic Relief US. □



Global players' union builds on FIFA regulations with a guide for expectant mothers

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Soccer Writer

When Cheyna Matthews got pregnant with her first child back in 2018, she had a lot of questions.

In addition to concerns about her legal rights as a professional soccer player, how would she manage pregnancy and the birth? And, importantly, when could she safely play again?

"We play a lot of times because we love it. But now it's also providing the financial security. So when you're thinking of having children it's like, 'OK, I also have to figure out how I can get back to work.' And when you're working with your body, it's one of the most important things," Matthews said.

In an effort to give players and teams alike a guide for best practices surrounding maternity, global players' union FIFPRO released a guide on Tuesday that covers how to manage pregnancy, what to expect in



Jamaica's Cheyna Matthews in action against Brazil's Adriana during the Women's World Cup Group F soccer match between Jamaica and Brazil in Melbourne, Australia, Aug. 2, 2023.

Associated Press

childbirth and how to prepare for a return to soccer. Matthews, who retired from pro soccer in 2023, along with United States left back Crystal Dunn, Germany goalkeeper Almuth Schult and Iceland midfielder Sara Bjork Gunnarsdottir, helped devise FIFPRO's "Postpar-

tum Return to Play Guide." The protocol builds on FIFA's groundbreaking regulations concerning maternity and parental rights that were first enacted in 2021 and expanded earlier this year.

Dr. Alex Culvin, FIFPRO director of policy and strate-

gic relations for women's soccer, said FIFA's new regulations and the protections that were put in place increased the likelihood that more players would feel comfortable starting families during their playing careers, but there was very little guidance about what

pregnancy, childbirth and recovery looked like.

"There is this perceived incompatibility, not just in football, in sport more generally, that you can't have a child and be an athlete. And actually there are players out there who have disproven this on a daily basis," Culvin said. "So we wanted to kind of bring all of this together, and elevate and listen to the player voice, centralize their experiences alongside experts on the scientific literature, and create something that hadn't been produced before, with the FIFPRO stamp on it."

The medical professionals who contributed to the guide were Dr. Pippa Bennett of the U.K. Sports Institute, Dr. Rita Tomas, the team physician for the Portuguese women's national team, professor Kirsty Elliott-Sale with the Manchester Metropolitan University's Institute of Sport, and FIFPRO Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vincent Gouttebauge. □

No. 1 Swiatek shakes off tough test, Naomi Osaka wins impressively in her return to the U.S. Open

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Top-ranked Iga Swiatek fought through a tough first-round match at the U.S. Open on Tuesday, while two-time champion Naomi Osaka made an impressive return to the tournament by beating No. 10 Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 6-2. Osaka, the 2018 and 2020 champion in Flushing Meadows, needed only 64 minutes to oust Ostapenko, the 2017 French Open champion. It was the kind of performance that was standard from Osaka when she reached No. 1 in the rankings and won four Grand Slam titles between 2018-21.

But she had missed large gaps of time since, first for mental health breaks and

then after giving birth, and just this month posted on social media about the struggles of not playing as well as she used to after failing to qualify for the tournament in Cincinnati.

She smashed 19 winners against only five unforced errors Tuesday.

Swiatek had a more difficult time, edging Kamilla Rakhimova 6-4, 7-6 (6). The 2022 champion was one point away from being forced to a third set when Rakhimova took a 6-3 lead in the tiebreaker. But Swiatek recovered and won the next five points, finishing the match when her opponent missed a backhand.

Swiatek improved to 22-1 in first-round matches at Grand Slams, including 6-0 at the U.S. Open. □



Iga Swiatek, of Poland, waves to fans after defeating Kamilla Rakhimova, during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press



PGA Tour postseason could use a little variety in its venues: Analysis

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — The PGA Tour postseason could use a change in scenery. One solution that has no logistical possibility would be a new perk for the No. 1 seed.

Along with starting the FedEx Cup finale with a two-shot lead, the top player would get to choose where to play the Tour Championship. The only caveat is it couldn't be the player's home course.

"It used to be East Lake," Xander Schauffele said when asked for his choice. He probably was more honest than sarcastic. Schauffele has failed to break par only three times in 28 rounds at East Lake. And those three rounds were all at even-par 70. But now East Lake has been changed dramatically, and Schauffele has reason to be leery.

Rory McIlroy picked Quail Hollow, where he has won four times. Scottie Scheffler leaned toward either the TPC Scottsdale or Bay Hill, "something with hard greens." He has won at both venues. Hideki Matsuyama had to be reminded Augusta National is closed until October. He nodded, smiled and settled on Riviera, where he shot 62 on the last day to win this year.

Something needs to change, and it's not just the steamy weather. The PGA Tour prefers continuity to build familiarity. The format for the postseason has changed four times since 2007.

The most obvious change was going to "starting strokes," which is why Scheffler starts at 10-under par with a two-shot lead.

But the biggest tweak was reducing the field 70 players instead of 125 players at

weekdays. The start of the playoffs doesn't have a lot of buzz.

and the vibe coming out of the last two weeks was whether the top players

playing? He chose the BMW Championship, deciding it was the best way to be prepared for East Lake. He tied for fifth and stayed No. 2 in the FedEx Cup. No regrets.

Scheffler has reason to feel the same way, especially in a year like his and going from high altitude to Atlanta.

The bigger issue is the market. When the playoffs began in 2007, it was the New York area, Boston, Chicago and Atlanta. The PGA Tour no longer is in New York or Boston, two of the biggest markets. McIlroy floated the idea of California for prime-time golf on TV.

FedEx still gets the recognition it deserves because "FedEx Cup" is mentioned throughout the year. If an agreement can be reached, it would be ideal for the postseason to alternate out of the TPC Southwind.

In a perfect world, turn Memphis into a signature event and search for a title sponsor to move the playoff opener around the country. Start with New York or Boston.

The PGA Tour had contemplated before the COVID-19 pandemic moving around the Tour Championship, with East Lake as the anchor. Imagine going Atlanta one year, Whistling Straits or Shinnecock Hills the next year.

That thought no longer exists, and it's probably just as well. This is the 21st consecutive year in Atlanta, and with the FedEx Cup and its value, "East Lake" has replaced "Tour Championship" as a destination for players starting the year. It now has tradition.

It's getting there that can use a change. □



Xander Schauffele watches his putt on the 17th green during the final round of the St. Jude Championship golf tournament Sunday, Aug. 18, 2024, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

the start, down to 50 for the second event and 30 for the finale.

That's not the problem. What makes the BMW Championship stand out is moving it around. The second of three playoff events goes from Castle Pines outside Denver this year to Caves Valley outside Baltimore next year. Bellerive in St. Louis and Liberty National across the Hudson River from Manhattan are next in line.

The other two don't move. Yes, the heat can be unbearable in Memphis, Tennessee, in August. But it's not necessarily any cooler in New Jersey or Missouri or most other places. The crowd is flat at the TPC Southwind, at least on the

Of course, there's that small matter of the building to the right of the fifth fairway at the TPC Southwind FedEx headquarters, the company paying quite a freight.

The TPC Southwind used to stage a regular PGA Tour event held before the U.S. Open (it's hot in June, too, by the way). And then when the tour lost a title sponsor for Firestone, Memphis took over as a World Golf Championship. And now it's a playoff opener. The course performs well for tournament golf, especially the closing holes. It rarely lacks for drama. But it lacks the electricity, outside of an afternoon thunderstorm in the summer.

Throw in the points system

even need to be there. Participation becomes a problem, and \$20 million purses are no longer enough to compel players to be there. McIlroy was asking himself why he needed to play in Memphis. He had just finished in a tie for 68th (against a 70-man field) and dropped all the way from No. 3 to No. 5.

Schauffele raised a similar question last week in the mile-high air south of Denver. Outside of winning, he was going to be No. 2 coming into East Lake even if he didn't play. The thought crossed his mind as he was leaving Paris after the Olympics.

He thought back to something his father always told him. Would he regret not